

## Homelessness in Maine 2012

The homeless population in Maine is, by its nature, very difficult to measure. Homeless people do not have permanent residences and often times do not have phones, making it difficult to conduct a survey. There are a few methods currently used to count homeless people, but none is perfect. At best, we have a snapshot of various homeless subpopulations, with very little reliable demographic information.

### **Figure: 957 people**

Source: 2011 Point in Time Survey, conducted by Maine Housing

Overview: Count of those who were in homeless shelter or unsheltered. The survey was conducted on one night in January. There is some demographic information however, because the sample is not representative of all homeless people (and arguably even those who stay in emergency shelters) it's not clear how useful this is. Trend data is available.

### **Figure: 7,725 people**

Source: 2011 Yearly Maine Housing Emergency Shelter Counts

Overview: This figure represents a count of all persons utilizing emergency shelters and domestic violence shelters over the entire year. There is no demographic information available. Trend data is available.

### **Figure: 2,379 people**

Source: HUD 2010 Homeless Assessment Report

Overview: A compilation of the 2010 Maine Point in Time Survey data (described above), as well as other data from various Homeless Management Information Systems. The HMIS-based data in the sample includes information on all persons who used an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing at any time during a one-year period, from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. There is some demographic information available, but it does not appear to be publicly available. Trend data is available.